

Mockernut Hickory – *Carya tomentosa*

The gray bark of this tree is marked with branching ridges and deep furrows. The twigs are stout and reddish-brown to grayish-brown in color. This tree grows well on rich, moist, well-drained soils of upland areas. Sometimes is found on flood plains. It occurs in various kinds of hardwood forest and often is found growing with oak trees. It usually occurs in small numbers compared to other species of trees.

The Mockernut Hickory grows throughout most of the eastern United States and westward to eastern Texas. It is most common in the southern part of its range. The wood of this tree is hard, strong, tough and elastic, and is used in handles for tools and in athletic equipment. The unusually small kernels from the nuts are sweet and edible.



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat leaves
- compound leaves
- pinnately compound
- margins toothed
- 3 end leaflets larger than basal leaflets
- 7-11 leaflets
- somewhat small
- lower surface densely downy

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- nut in a husk
- thinner husk
- husk 0.25" or more thick
- Nut brownish
- husk splits to base

